

RICAT Minutes

Office of Rehabilitation Services
40 Fountain Street - 5th Floor Large Conference Room - Providence, RI
Wednesday, April 27, 2005
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Attendees: Flo Adeni-Awosika, John Benevides, Kerri Cicione, Pat Feeley, Jeanne Panarace, Robert Perrello, Ying Sun, Jill Waller

ATAP Partners : Liz Hubbard

- I. **Welcome** – Chair Waller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes – 2/24/05.** Bob Perrello made motion to accept minutes, seconded by Kathy Samways. Motion was unanimously approved.

III. **Brief Business Meeting**

- A. Election Results. Chair Waller congratulated Jeanne Panarace for being voted in as the new Chair and John Benevides as the new Vice Chair. Chair Waller then added that she wanted to thank Regina and Emily, who was unable to attend this meeting, for all the assistance they have given her. Bob Perrello also asked everyone to give a vote of thanks to Chair Waller for all her hard work over the past year. Regina also added that Jill had been a pleasure to work with and has brought so much energy and enthusiasm to the Council. Chair Waller then handed over the chair to new Chair Panarace.

Chair Panarace thanked everyone for the confidence they expressed in her and stated that when she was with the Dept of Health she had enjoyed working with the technology programs and she looks forward to seeing the many new ideas out there. Chair Panarace stated she would like to set up a meeting with all of the Committee Chairs to get see what their goals are for the coming year. Regina noted that this was the perfect transition for Jeanne to make commenting that she has worked with her in many venues and stating she has such a tremendous amount of respect for her, her commitment, her knowledge and her expertise. She added that she also looks

forward to working with Vice Chair Benevides stating John brings a prospective from the outside in to RICAT. John thanked everyone as well for this opportunity.

Chair Panarace gave a brief history of how she became involved with ORS and how it lead to her being involved in several committees.

- B. Pat F. questioned dates of the committee meetings. Jill answered that Legislative Committee was to meet on Tuesday but needed to be canceled and a new date had not been rescheduled. Ying added that the Communication Committee was meeting at URI on the 27th. Flo A. asked which committee she was on. Jill responded Membership, adding that they will be contacting her regarding interviews for new members. John B. questioned if the meeting dates are posted on the website. Jill W. responded she had asked chairs to forward information to her, then she will forward to Chair Panarace.

- C. Pat F. made motion to contact Sharon Brinkworth at the Brain Injury Association of RI to see if someone there would be interested in becoming a member because of the Brain Injury Act of 2005 being passed and funds are available. Discussion included Jill responding she could send her an application, and John B. adding that she would be classified as part of that agency versus a consumer. Jill stated they are actually looking for 2 other consumers. Pat then tabled her motion. Regina added that according to the law and the list of representatives, they need one from education which she received an email from the Office of Special Populations stating that Kim Carson will be representing them. Regina stated they also need a representative from the Independent Living population. Bob P. suggested they contact Bob Cooper, GCD. Kathy S. agreed saying he has a long mailing list. She also added that if we have an overabundance of applicants, that there might be some type of collaboration between the State Independent Living Council and RICAT.

IV. Conference Call (Alternative Finance Program)

V. Adjournment